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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/747,735	12/29/2003	James William Rembert	9400-66	6632
39072	7590	01/09/2008	EXAMINER	
MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC, P.A.			TSEGAYE, SABA	
P.O. BOX 37428			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
RALEIGH, NC 27627			2619	
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			01/09/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/747,735	REMBERT ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Saba Tsegaye	2619	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 October 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action is in response to the amendment filed 10/09/07. Claims 1-21 are pending. Currently no claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Harel et al. (US 2004/0190548 A1).

Regarding claims 1 and 8, Harel discloses a method of operating a multiprotocol label switching (MPLS)

network, comprising:

establishing a label switched path (LSP) that connects a first provider edge (PE) label switched router (LSR) a second PE LSR, and a customer edge (CE) LSR (page 2, 0017, lines 9-21);

encapsulating packet traffic that is associated with a plurality of different layer two technologies with an MPLS label (see figs. 1 and 2; page 5, 0084); and securely routing the encapsulated packet traffic from the first PE LSR through the second PE LSR to the CE LSR using the LSP (page 2, 0017).

Regarding claims 2 and 9, Harel discloses the method wherein the layer two technologies comprise asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) technology, frame relay technology, point-to-point

protocol/high level data link control (HDLC) technology, private line time division multiplexing (TDM), and/or Ethernet technology (see fig. 2; claim 3).

Regarding claims 4 and 11, Harel discloses the method wherein the MPLS label is statically provisioned from the second PE LSR to the CE LSR and stitched to a signaled LSP in a service provider network that connects the first and second PE LSRs (0017).

Regarding claims 5 and 12, Harel discloses the method further comprising: provisioning a pseudo wire virtual circuit within the LSP for each one of a plurality of attachment circuits at the first PE LSR (0017, lines 1-7).

Regarding claims 6 and 13, Harel discloses the method wherein the LSP and/or pseudo wires, which are terminated via signaling at the second PE LSR, transit on to the CE LSR (0017, lines 1-7).

Regarding claims 7 and 14, Harel discloses the method wherein each of the packets comprising the packet traffic comprises a control word that identifies one of the pluralities of different layer two technologies that the respective packet is associated with (page 2, 0017, lines 9-21).

3. Claims 15, 16 and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harel et al.

Harel discloses all the claim limitations as stated above. Further, Harel discloses that the ITDs comprise combinations of dedicated hardware switching and logic elements with software-driven microprocessors for control and computation functions. Harel does not expressly disclose a computer program product for operating the MPLS network.

However, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use software-based machines. The benefit using computer-readable device is that programs can be changed and upgraded and new futures are added easily than hardware changes.

4. Claims 3, 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harel et al. in view of Chu et al. (US 2004/0059831 A1).

Harel discloses all the claim limitations as stated above, except for an internal service provider IP-virtual private network.

Chu teaches, in fig. 1 the second PE LSR (110) uses an internal service provider IP-virtual private network (0007; 0009; 0034; 0039-0041).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an IP-VPN, such as that suggested by Chu, in the system of Harel in order to secure a required bandwidth for each end user.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 10/09/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Harel does not disclose or suggest "*aggregating the packets associated with the packet source 32 and the packets associated with source 30 on a common LSP.*" Examiner respectfully disagrees. As described at 0034, encapsulating the data includes **adding one or more labels** to the data for transmission through a tunnel. As known, MPLS is used to ensure that all packets in a **particular flow** take **the same route** over a backbone. **Labels** are used to define **a flow of packets between two nodes**. Harel, further, discloses that "all packets in a given FEC are passed through the network over the same path by label switching routers (LSRs). Unlike IP routers, LSRs simply use **the packet label** as an index to a look-up table, which specifies the next hop on the path for each FEC and the label that LSR should attach to the packet (0015)."

Referring to the arguments on page 10, about the limitations in claims 4 and 11, these arguments are similar to the arguments presented above, the Examiner takes the same position as discussed for claim 1.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saba Tsegaye whose telephone number is (571) 272-3091. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-5:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wing Chan can be reached on (571) 272-7493. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Saba Tsegaye
Examiner
Art Unit 2619


WING CHAN
1/7/08
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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January 5, 2008